

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT. PASS OTP, FCC, COAST GUARD, NASA, MARAD

MOSCOW HOLD FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALDMAN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, NO, XG

SUBJECT: MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM

1. TELEGRAM SENT FROM EMBASSY OSLO WITH INITIAL REPORT ON NORWEGIAN TALKS DESCRIBING GON REACTION TO U.S. SUGGESTION DEALING WITH SEPARATING INMARSAT DRAFT CONVENTION INTO TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS, AND SUMMARIZING NORWEGIAN INTIAL OPPOSITION TO IDEA. SEPARATE REPORT PROMISED SUMMARIZING NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON OTHER SUBJECTS. IN THESE OTHER AREAS NORWEGIANS DISPLAYED GENERALLY RESPONSIVE AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TO U.S. POSITIONS.

2. ON SUBJECT OF PROCUREMENT POLICY, FOR EXAMPLE, NORWEGIANS REFLECTED UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION THAT POLICY MUST BE ONE ENSURING LOWEST POSSIBLE COST OF SYSTEM, AND THAT IT CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ACCEPTANCE OF BEST TENDER BASED ON PRICE, QUALITY AND DELIVERY TIME, NOT SUBJECT TO OTHER MODIFICATION. UNDERSTANDABLY THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY LEAD

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AND DESIRABILITY OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION. WHILE

EXPRESSING PREFERENCE FOR ALTERNATIVE A IN POE DRAFT THEY DID SAY THAT THEY WERE NOT AS COMMITTED TO THAT LANGUAGE AS SOME OTHER COUNTRIES AND INDICATED THAT FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT MIGHT BE EXPECTED AT LONDON.

3. REGARDING POSSIBLE INITIAL USE BY INMARSAT OF MARISAT/MAROTS COOPERATION EFFORT, NORWEGIANS REPLIED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY PRIOR TO APRIL CONFERENCE TO MAKE ANY REALISTIC CONJECTURE, BUT THAT THEY CONSIDERED LIKELY SOME UTILIZATION OF MARISAT/MAROTS IN INMARSAT'S FIRST STAGES.

4. IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS, NORWEGIANS IMPLIED THAT THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED IF CONFERENCE IN APRIL APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE SATELLITE SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF INMARSAT, AND THEN ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE WORKING GROUPS TO ENGAGE IN HARD AND EFFECTIVE WORK PRIOR TO SECOND CONFERENCE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. STATEMENT REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF THERE BEING A MECHANISM FOR OWNER/OPERATOR USER INPUT TO ORGANIZATION, ALTHOUGH IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY AND NOT AS PARTICIPATING COUNCIL MEMBER, NORWEGIANS TOOK TACK SIMILAR TO BRITISH (AS REPORTED IN OUR LONDON TELEGRAM) THAT CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN GON AND NORWEGIAN SHIPPERS WOULD ENSURE ADEQUATE USER REPRESENTATION. WHEN U.S. RESPONDED THAT WE THOUGHT USER VIEWS SHOULD BE SOUGHT THROUGH LIAISON WITH SOME SHIPPING GROUP SUCH AS ICS, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY SHOWED NO GREAT ENTHUSIASM, BUT ON OTHER HAND THEY DID NOT OPPOSE CONCEPT AND INDICATED THEY WOULD BE FLEXIBLE ON SUBJECT AT LONDON. THEY DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE NO DESIRE TO HAVE CREW ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER GON INTENDED TO SUBSIDIZE SYSTEM BY SUPPLYING SHIP TERMINALS OR BY OFFERING REDUCED CHARGES FOR SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, THEY SAID THAT OWNERS WOULD PAY FOR OWN TERMINALS, AND WHILE SUBJECT OF CHARGES WAS A COMPLICATED ONE THEY HAD NOT YET FORMULATED GOVERNMENT POSITION. THEY DID INDICATE THAT SUBSIDY GRANT WAS NOT HIGH ON THEIR LIST OF PRIORITIES. THEY WERE ALSO CANDID IN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WHILE NORWEGIAN SHIP OWNERS WERE NATURALLY INTERESTED IN SATELLITE SYSTEMS BECAUSE IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS, THE GON HAD NOT SURVEYED OWNERS AND OPERATORS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MEASURE THE DEPTH OF THEIR INTEREST. U.S. TEAM AGREED THAT U.S. WAS IN ROUGHLY SAME POSITION.

7. ON OTHER SUBJECTS NORWEGIANS FAVOR USE OF SATELLITE SYSTEM IN PORTS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS. ON NAVIGATIONAL QUESTION THEY POINTED OUT THAT SYSTEM WAS PRIMARILY FOR COMMUNICATIONS, BUT SAW ADVANTAGES IN NAVIGATION INCLUDING SINGLE LINE OF POSITION IN FIRST PHASE. THEY ALSO SUPPORTED INCLUSION OF GLOBAL RESCUE

ALARM NET CAPABILITY. REGARDING COMPUTATION OF INITIAL COMMITMENT THEY PREFER POE ARTICLE 18 ALTERNATIVE A WHICH CREDITS TRAFFIC TO ORIGIN POINT WHETHER SHIP OR LAND STATION, HOWEVER, THEY INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY. ON QUESTION WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY USER CHARGES BETWEEN MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITHIN DELEGATION, BUT SAYERSTED'S OPINION WAS PRINCIPLE TO BE EMBODIED IN CONVENTION SHOULD BE NON-DISCRIMINATION IN CHARGES, BUT WITH COUNCIL AUTHORIZED TO ASSESS ADDITIONAL CHARGES TO NON-MEMBER IF IT WAS NECESSARY. ON SUBJECT OF DISTRESS AND SAFETY THEY STRESSED NEED FOR SYSTEM TO ULTIMATELY INCORPORATE FULLY AUTOMATED SAFETY SYSTEM INCLUDING SURVEILLANCE.

8. FOR WASHINGTON ADDRESSEES, THESE MESSAGES ARE BEING CLASSIFIED L.O.U. IN EXPECTATION THEY BE KEPT WITHIN USG. BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL TEAM RETURNS TO DISCUSS WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INDUSTRY.
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